

REQUIREMENTS FOR OUTDOOR ENCLOSURES/PENS:

Any dog confined within an outdoor enclosure/pen must have adequate space for exercise. A minimum of one hundred square feet is required. Dogs over eight (80) pounds must have an additional fifty (50) square feet. Fifty (50) square feet is required for each additional dog kept within the same enclosed area. The area must be maintained in a sanitary condition and be free from debris or stored material.



Montgomery County, Maryland

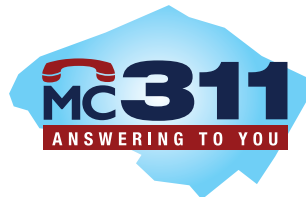
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
Animal Services Division

Shelter for an Outdoor Dog

Regulations and Procedures



Montgomery County, Maryland
DEPARTMENT OF POLICE
Animal Services Division
14645 Rothgeb Drive
Rockville, Maryland 20850
240-773-5960
www.montgomerycountymd.gov



www.montgomerycountymd.gov/311
For calls made outside of Montgomery County: 240-777-0311
240-773-3556 TTY



*Shelter or protection from
the weather for outdoor dogs*

SHELTER FOR AN OUTSIDE DOG REGULATIONS

The Animal Services Division of the Montgomery County Police Department is responsible for the enforcement of laws and regulations related to pets. If you have questions about shelter for your dog:

CALL 240-773-5925

SHELTER OR PROTECTION FROM THE WEATHER FOR OUTDOOR DOGS

If you keep your dog outside, you must comply with County regulations regarding proper shelter and protection from the weather.

Dog houses are considered shelter or protection from the weather provided the dog house:

- is constructed of solid wood, fiberglass or other weather-resistant material (excluding metal);
- is at least 2" off of the ground, with a solid, level floor;
- does not contain cracks or openings other than the entrance;



- has a protected entrance or offset to act as a windbreak with a flexible flap made of windproof material when temperatures are below 45 degrees Fahrenheit;
- has an overhang on the roof;
- contains a sufficient quantity of non-absorbent bedding such as wood chips or straw for insulation against cold and damp; and
- is sufficiently large that the dog is able to stand up and turn around while inside but is sized to allow the dog to warm the interior of the structure and retain his or her body heat.

Shade must be available to outdoor dogs at all times from sources other than the dog house, whether the shade is natural or manmade.

Fresh water shall be made available to outdoor dogs at all times.

Garages, sheds, screened or enclosed porches and alcoves may be considered shelter or protection from the weather, provided that:

- during spring and summer, the structure is ventilated so as to provide movement of air;
- in a heated structure during fall and winter, an area must be provided for the dog that contains bedding (blankets, wood chips, etc.) sufficient to keep the pet insulated from the floor of the structure; or
- in an unheated structure during fall and winter, an enclosure must be provided consisting of four walls and a top (which may also be an igloo-type house), and is sufficiently large that the dog is able to stand up and turn around while inside; said enclosure is for the purpose of retaining the body heat of the dog; bedding (blankets, wood chips, etc.) must also be provided.

Any time that a dog is left outside, tethered or not, and the owner is absent from the property, a suitable structure (dog house, shed, screened porch, alcove or working pet door) must be provided as shelter for the dog, and if tethered, the tether must be positioned so the dog may enter the structure easily.

Any time that a dog is left outside overnight, a suitable structure (dog house, shed, screened porch, alcove or working pet door) must be provided as shelter for the dog.